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12-12-1996

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "12/12/1996 - EIU Chemistry Department Gets Unexpected, But Welcomed, Award" (1996). 1996. 371.
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96-302

December 12, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EIU CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT GETS UNEXPECTED -- BUT WELCOMED -- AWARD

CHARLESTON – An unexpected and unsolicited award of \$5,500, presented to Eastern Illinois University's chemistry department, will provide one university undergraduate with invaluable research experience he or she might otherwise go without.

Established in 1993 by the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, the Jean Dreyfus Boissevain Undergraduate Scholarship for Excellence in Chemistry was named after the Foundation's late president, who, throughout her lifetime, maintained an abiding interest in students and their academic achievements. The Foundation initiated the scholarship program to encourage outstanding undergraduates to choose careers in the chemical sciences.

"It's an honor for the department to receive this award," said Ellen Keiter, Eastern's chemistry chair. "And it will be a wonderful opportunity for the student who receives the award."

According to Keiter, Eastern's chemistry department has never before received this particular award. It has, however, received awards through the Foundation's Scholar/Fellow Program and its Special Grants in the Chemical Sciences Program.

"We didn't apply for this award; we received it spontaneously," Keiter said. "It is likely that we were chosen because the Foundation knows of our commitment to undergraduate research."

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The bulk of the award -- \$5,000 -- will be used to allow an undergraduate student to participate in two summers of scholarly research in Eastern's chemistry department. The remaining \$500 may be used to assist in defraying costs of supplies associated with the research.

Keiter said her department will develop local guidelines to choose the recipient. Terms of the award set down by the Foundation mandate that the recipient must have declared a commitment to a major in chemistry, chemical engineering or biochemistry and intends to pursue a career in the chemical sciences.

The chosen student will most likely do his or her research during the summers of 1997 and 1998, Keiter said, and can expect to work in direct collaboration with a faculty member at Eastern.

“The student will benefit in two ways,” Keiter said. “He or she will benefit from having this award on their record and by experiencing real world chemistry.”